

9790, Anderson Preparatory Academy

PROJECT ABSTRACT

The Anderson Preparatory Academy is a public charter school authorized by Ball State University - a military-style academy for girls and boys. We honor diversity and offer equal educational opportunity for everyone, building upon these basic principles:

- A rigorous college preparatory curriculum of liberal arts and sciences
- A cadet program to help students become leaders and individuals of character
- A commitment to community service and patriotism

APA currently serves grades 6-9 and is expanding each year until it is a 6-12 grade school. Our school is unique in that we require all students to participate in the Cadet Program of the Civil Air Patrol, a civilian volunteer organization sponsored by the U.S. Air Force. The Cadet Program instills in American youth the core military values of integrity, service, respect and excellence. Serving as a vehicle for our challenging academics, the Cadet Program also integrates aviation and technology into the classroom.

RATIONALE: The program we propose, "Total Reading for Total Learning" will focus on reading skills development with instruction across the curriculum. Ball State University uses the NWEA as the measure of progress for charter schools and our results are as follows for the 2008-09 school year. Language and math improvement was dramatic at APA the first year and far exceeded the chronological time between fall and spring testing. (8 months) Minority students, Title I students, and education students exceeded expected growth in language and math.

Our need is clear. We have not taught formal reading courses and reading did not match the growth of language and math and while it grew slightly against the national norm, the grade equivalent growth did not match the 8 months. Our school is focused on reading across the curriculum but we have not had formal reading classes in our enhanced and accelerated curriculum.

Early College

The project-based format will be integrated with co-credit and advanced placement courses. We will look to state universities such as Purdue University to offer co-credit and advance placement classes delivered over the on line learning systems in place. School will provide over 150 high school courses to supplement the on-site curriculum. In addition to the instructors at the School, cadets will have tutors available by phone. Courses may be taken for dual credit for high school and college. The college credits will be paid for by the cadet and hopefully through the development of scholarships. High school credit courses will be paid for through the funding received per ADM for each cadet. Advanced Placement courses will be designed around the co-credit courses at state universities.